

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
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-----007930 021808Z /41

P 021555Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5101  
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
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AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
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AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAIRO 03870

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EG IS XF US  
SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS NONCOMMITTAL AS SADAT DEPARTS

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1. SADAT-ATHERTON. PRESS FEB 2 HIGHLIGHTS SADAT'S PREVIOUS DAY MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON. ACCORDING AHAM, SESSION LARGELY DEVOTED TO HEARING FONMIN KAMEL'S REPORT TO PRESIDENT ON RESULTS OF HIS EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH ATHERTON. GUMHURIYYA SAID SESSION CONCENTRATED ON COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF SITUATION PRIOR TO WASHINGTON VISIT. EGYPT SAID TO HAVE FURTHER

DEFINED ITS POSITION ON DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES; ATHERTON AND AMBASSADOR TO BRIEF PRESIDENT CARTER PRIOR TO SUMMIT. GUMHURIYYA "LEARNED" WIDE GAP REMAINS BETWEEN ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN POSITIONS: ISRAEL CONTINUING RESIST TOTAL WITHDRAWAL; INSISTING ON MAINTAINING SETTLEMENTS IN NORTHERN SINAI; REJECTING SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PALESTINIANS; AND AVOIDING DISCUSSION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM "IN ALL ITS ASPECTS."

2. MILITARY SUBCOMMITTEE. MILITARY SUBCOMMITTEE HELD TWO SESSIONS YESTERDAY. ACCORDING PRESS, DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON SINAI SETTLEMENTS AND AIRFIELDS, SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, DMZ'S "ON BOTH SIDES" AND POSITIONING OF UN FORCES. ACCORDING GUMHURIYYA, ISRAEL PUT FORWARD "TECHNICAL POINTS" CONCERNING WITHDRAWAL. COMMITTEE SCHEDULED MEET TODAY ON WITHDRAWAL TIMETABLE, FOLLOWING WHICH ISRAELIS WILL RETURN TO JERUSALEM. TALKS WILL BE SUSPENDED PENDING OUTCOME SADAT-CARTER MEETING.

3. SECRETARY VANCE. ALL PAPERS FEATURED (UNDATED) VANCE INTERVIEW WITH "INTERNATIONAL JEWISH PRESS SYNDICATE" IN WHICH SECRETARY QUOTED AS SAYING ISRAELI EXPANSION OF SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES WILL CAUSE "GRIEF" AND REPRESENTS "OBSTACLE TO PEACE." PAPERS HIGHLIGHT SECRETARY'S OBSERVATION THAT EGYPTIANS WILL NOT ACCEPT CONTINUED ISRAELI MILITARY PRESENCE AT UNCLASSIFIED

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SHARM AL-SHEIKH. PRESS ALSO NOTED SECRETARY'S COMMENT THAT BEGIN DEMONSTRATING "INCREASING FLEXIBILITY" AND HIS ASSESSMENT THAT ISRAELI PM WILL TAKE "EXTRA STEP", SINCE HE "TRULY AND TOTALLY COMMITTED TO PEACE. SADAT, TOO, DESCRIBED AS DETERMINED ACHIEVE PEACE THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

4. EDITORIALS. EDITORIALS UNEXCEPTIONAL. AHARAM PREDICTED SADAT GOING TO WASHINGTON TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE, NOT JUST WITH USG, BUT WITH AMERICAN PRESSURE GROUPS TO BUILD UP SUPPORT FOR EGYPTIAN POSITION. AKHBAR DECLARED THERE NO BARGAINING OVER PALESTINIAN RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. PAPER CLAIMED JEWS, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE ISRAEL, HAVE UNDERSTOOD LESSONS DERIVED FROM OCCUPATION OF OTHER PEOPLES' LAND BY FORCE. NAZIS, DURING WW II, DEMONSTRATED IMPOSSIBILITY OF LIVING IN SECURITY. CONCLUDED NO PEACE CONCEIVABLE WHILE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IGNORED. ISRAEL, WITH MILITARY ARSENAL INCLUDING ATOMIC WEAPONS, CAN NOT CLAIM TO BE THREATENED BY PALESTINIANS. IN SEPARATE FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY BY MOUSSA SABRI, AKHBAR SAID ARABS EXPECT USG TO OBTAIN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI SETTLEMENTS. MATTHEWS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, VISITS, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014